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| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/532,579   | 12/06/2005  | Hitoshi Niwa         | 0020-5374PUS1       | 4814             |
| 2292   | 7590        | 01/07/2010           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH<br>PO BOX 747<br>FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747 |             |                      |                     | CROUCH, DEBORAH  |
| ART UNIT   |             | PAPER NUMBER         |                     |                  |
| 1632   |             |                      |                     |                  |
| NOTIFICATION DATE  |             |                      | DELIVERY MODE       |                  |
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

|   | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>Response to Rule 312 Communication</b> | 10/532,579      | NIWA ET AL.  |
|   | Examiner        | Art Unit     |
|   | Deborah Crouch  | 1632         |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

1.  The amendment filed on 11 December 2009 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

- a)  entered.
- b)  entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.
- c)  disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee.  
Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue.
- d)  disapproved. See explanation below.
- e)  entered in part. See explanation below.

/Deborah Crouch/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1632